

SF 64-3387

13 May 1964

Pd^t MA&I R EI vAM

Dear Mac:

In view of the President's continuing interest in trade with Cuba, I feel that the attached report on Free World shipping in the Cuban trade should be brought to his personal attention.

Of particular interest and concern is the rise in British and Greek controlled shipping which in the first quarter of 1964 amounted to 87.5%, and in March to 94.8%, of the Free World voyages. These astoundingly high percentages result from a determination that virtually all of the Lebanese flag vessels in the Cuban trade during the first quarter, which accounted for one-third of the total voyages, were either British or Greek controlled. Apparently there are some advantages to ship owners to register ships under the Lebanese flag.

Although this report is receiving normal distribution, I am transmitting it to you and suggest you speak to the President about it. I point out that it is classified, Secret - No Foreign Dissem.

Sincerely,

/S/ John

John A. McCone
Director

Attachment

ME
DO
CQ
PS
MM
RP

The Honorable McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House

O/DDI 12 May

Rewritten JAM/mfb 13 May

Distribution:

Orig w/attach by hand to addressee

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Attachment: Current Support Brief,
"British and Greek Firms Continue to
Dominate Free World Shipping in the
Cuban Trade", dtd May 1964

SECRET